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1972 ANNUAL

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# VAMPIRELLA

## GREAT ILLUSTRATED STORIES!

NEVER BEFORE SEEN!
VAMPIRELLA REBORN!
THE
NEW ORIGIN STORY!

## COLLECTOR'S EDITION

BEST GIRL-MEETS-GHOUL ADVENTURES IN COMICS

VAMPIRELLA 1972 ANNUAL

EVER WONDER WHAT IT TAKES TO BE A WOMAN OF PARTS? ONCE, FAR BACK IN HISTORY, IN THE **DARK AGES OF 1935**, BEFORE (THE MIND BOGGLES) THERE WAS ANY **CREEPY** OR **EERIE** OR **VAMPIRELLA**, ONE DARING FEMALE LEARNED THE AWFUL ANSWER. DID SHE LIVE? SHOCK TO THE TERRIBLE REVELATION IN THIS, THE FIRST OF...

# VAMPI'S FEARY TALES...

THE TWO MAD SCIENTISTS WORKED FEVERISHLY ON THEIR BLASPHEMOUS PROJECT. TIME WAS RUNNING OUT FOR THEM, FOR THE **MONSTER** WAS GETTING RESTLESS. **FRANKENSTEIN DEMANDED A MATE!!**

THEN THESE MIRACLE WORKERS BROUGHT THEIR CURVY CADAVER TO LIFE AND OFFERED HER TO **BIG FRANK** TO BE HIS WIFE. BUT SHE'D HAVE NO PART OF THIS RABID ROMEO FOR SHE KNEW WHERE HIS PARTS CAME FROM- **THE GALLOWS!**

THAT LITTLE HUNCHBACKED HORROR, FRITZ, BROUGHT THEM A WARM FEMALE **HEART**, THEY WERE TOO BUSY TO INQUIRE WHERE HE GOT IT. OR PERHAPS THEY PREFERRED **NOT TO KNOW!**

SO--"**WE BELONG DEAD**" GROWLED FRANKENSTEIN, AND THREW THE SWITCH THAT BLEW THE LAB TO **THINGDOM COME!** YES, THE **BRIDE OF FRANKENSTEIN**, ON HER WEDDING NIGHT, WENT **ALL TO PIECES!!**

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# VAMPIRELLA

# 1972 ANNUAL

## CONTENTS

**ORIGIN OF VAMPIRELLA**
Visit a world where water is blood and fate is the puppeteer. An Original Story. Never before seen ..... 4

**CURSE OF CIRCE**
Hold a seashell to your ear and you will hear the sea, or is it Circe beckoning you from afar? From Issue #6, 1970 ..... 19

**GODDESS FROM THE SEA**
Her skin is blue-green and seven gilled warriors pursue her. From Issue #1, 1969 ..... 25

**THE CURSE**
The fantastic story of a being from nowhere, and a girl called Zara. From Issue #9, 1970 ..... 31

**SNAKE EYES**
A young girl discovers she has a strange talent which craves to be liberated. From Issue #8, 1970 ..... 39

**VAMPI'S FEARY TALES** ..... 49

**FORGOTTEN KINGDOM**
Boy is boy and girl is girl and never the twain shall meet. From Issue #4, 1969 ..... 57

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NIGHT. AND TREE LIMBS GNARLED WITH AGE, HANG SILENTLY...SMALLER BRANCHES MOVE IN THE SLIGHT WIND, WEIGHTED DOWN BY THE FOREIGN PRESENCE OF A SLEEPING BAT, ITS HIND FEET ALMOST ROOTED TO THE BRANCH...

THE SKY IS STILL... A PAIR OF MOONS OBSCURED BY PASSING SHREDS OF CLOUD STAND AS IF IN WAIT. THE CREATURE STIRS ALMOST MOTIONLESSLY... AN EYE OPENS.

ITS WINGS FOLDED TIGHTLY AGAINST EACH OTHER FROM THE DAMP AND THE COLD, THE BAT STARES INTO THE DARK... AND A MUTED PULSE QUICKENS. A RUSTLE AND THE BATS FINGERS BEGIN UNFOLDING THE CAPE OF SKIN...

...IN PREPARATION FOR FLIGHT... FOR PREY IS NEAR, UNSUSPECTING PREY.

...A FORGOTTEN MAMMAL, CONSIDERED NEAR THE TOP OF THE VERY SCHEME OF LIFE ITSELF. THE BAT CLAWS AWAY AT THE AIR, NAVIGATING ITS WAY FORWARD... AWARE OF BRANCHES THREATENING ITS SOFT WINGS.

THE SPECTRE OF TWIN SUNS ABOVE A FUTURISTIC CITY, SYMBOLLIZING THE DUAL NATURES OF THAT CITY'S INHABITANTS... FOR THIS IS A TORTURED WORLD FACED WITH IMINENT DESTRUCTION.

ART BY JOSE GONZALEZ/STORY BY J.R. COCHRAN

THE DESCENT, THE SLOW, HALTING GLIDE CLAWING AT THE AIR... IN SEARCH OF THAT FEARFUL PULSE BEATING IN THE NIGHT... HIDDEN SOMEWHERE...

AND THE ATTACK, SWIFT AND SUDDEN, A SMALL DARK BIRD LOST AMID THE WINGS OF THE BAT, CAUGHT THERE AS IF IN A WEB, THIN CONTRACTED CLAWS DIGGING INWARDS... AND THE BAT ALMOST FLOATING NOW.

..THE SHADOW OF NIGHT LIKE A WRAITH, THE BAT BEGINS A METAMORPHOSIS... ONCE MORE ITS WINGS SPREAD WIDE AND THE BONES OF BIRDS TUMBLE FORTH...

THE CREATURE SPILLS FORTH A COCOON... LONG, SLEEK FINGERS TUMBLE FORWARD WITH A LIFE OF THEIR OWN... THE CLOAK OF WINGS BECOME A SILKEN VEST...

...AND WHO IS THIS SHADOWY FIGURE?.. THIS GIRL OF UNEARTHLY BEAUTY WHOSE NAME IS VAMPIRELLA... COME FORTH FROM A SMALL, LOPING BAT.. DREAM UPON HER ...FOR SHE HAS NO DREAMS. HER ONLY WISH IS TO KEEP THAT SMALL AND EVER FLICKERING CANDLE OF LIFE BURNING IN A WORLD OF VIOLENT WINDS...

# THE ORIGIN OF VAMPIRELLA

...FOR HERS IS A WORLD INVERTED.. TURNED IN AGAINST ITSELF AND ITS PEOPLES...AND SHE, LIKE ANY OTHER CREATURE SIMILARLY CAUGHT, IS A CREATURE IN DESPAIR, LIVING BY INSTINCT ALONE...

ONCE THIS WAS A PLANET OF CULTURE HONED TO PERFECTION ... WITH A RACE OF PEOPLES WHOSE NATURAL BIRTHRIGHT INCLUDED THE POWERS OF METAMORPHOSIS AND HYPNOTISM...

BACK... BACK IN TIME TO TRISTAN AND A WORLD LONG PAST... A WORLD WHERE RIVERS OF BLOOD LIKE WATER COURSED, LIFESUSTAINING BLOOD.

DRAKULON, ONCE A LUSH, MANY-PEOPLED WORLD, NOW NO MORE THAN A SKELETON OF ITS FORMER SELF... STRUGGLING TO KEEP ALIVE... AT NIGHT... IN THE COOLING DARKNESS.

...FOR EVERY COMING OF DAY HERALDS THE INESCAPABLE PRESCENCE OF DEATH, DRAKULON'S TWIN SUNS... NOT UNLIKE THE FURIES... CASTING THEIR VENGEANCE ON ITS RIVERS BURNING AWAY THE ONCE AND MIGHTY FLOWING ARTERIES UNTIL NO MORE THAN GREYING PEBBLES AND ENDLESS PATCHES OF CRACKING EARTH REMAINED...

VAMPIRELLA SHIELDS HER EYES FROM THE COMING OF DAY... THE GRIM LIGHT RETURNS HER TO THE PAST...TO THE BEGINNING...WHEN HER WORLD BEGAN ITS COLLISION COURSE WITH THE TWIN SUNS...WHEN EVERYTHING AROUND HER, LIKE THE COMING OF THE APOCALYPSE, WENT OUT OF CONTROL, AND THE SEASONS CHANGED WITHOUT APPARENT CAUSE...

ALTHOUGH HE WAS NEAR DEATH, SHE DID NOT KNOW IT THEN... HE HID HIS FEARS FROM HER LIKE A CHILD HOARDING TREASURE.

LOOK, TRISTAN! A FATTED GRONOS!...FAT FROM FEEDING ON OUR DEAD. WE MUST CATCH IT! HELP ME, TRISTAN!
I CAN'T, MY DARLING. I'M SORRY, BUT I CAN'T.
LOVE WITHOUT HONOR IS EMPTY...KILLING THE GRONOS WOULD BE LIKE KILLING SOMETHING IN MYSELF. SURVIVE IF YOU CAN VAMPIRELLA... ANY WAY YOU CAN. I WILL NOT HATE YOU FOR IT. BUT I CANNOT!
THE GRONOS! HE SEES US, HIS GLUTTONY KNOWS NO BOUNDS.

...BACK TO THAT ENCHANTED DAY BY THE RIVER...BACK TO TRISTAN, HER LOVER, FAIR TRISTAN, UNABLE TO CHANGE WITH THE CHANGE ALL AROUND HIM,...A CHILD WHO REFUSED TO GROW OLD...DOOMED FOREVER TO REMAIN STUNTED RATHER THAN ASSUME AGE.

PLEASE, TRISTAN, YOU MUST. WE HAVE TO LIVE. PLEASE HELP ME. TOGETHER, WE COULD KILL IT EASILY. LOOK AT HIM, TRISTAN. HE LUMBERS LIKE A SNAIL. HURRY... SO THAT WE MAY LIVE.
I'M SORRY, MY DARLING, BUT I WILL NOT HELP YOU KILL THE GRONOS, HOWEVER WEIGHTED DOWN HE IS.

LIKE WIND HELD BACK ONLY TO RUSH FORTH MORE VIOLENTLY, THE GIRL SPRINGS AT THE GRONOS, DEATHLY AWARE OF IT'S LEGENDARY PROWESS.

HER ARMS IN A STRANGE HOLD AROUND THE STRUGGLING GRONOS, VAMPIRELLA CONQUERS!

YOU WILL NOT MAKE ME YOUR VICTIM, GRONOS, AS YOU HAVE SO MANY OTHERS!

SHE LIFTS THE GRONOS FOR TRISTAN TO SEE...

ONLY THE MOST FIT CAN SURVIVE. YOU MUST LEARN THAT IF YOU ARE TO LIVE...

BEHIND YOU... ORBITING THERE IN THE SKY... MORE PLUNDERERS, COME TO SCAVENGE FROM OUR DYING PLANET!

NO! NOT OTHERS!

YES, FOR OUR HOME HAS BECOME A JUNGLE WHERE ONLY THE MOST FIT CAN SURVIVE. YOU ARE RIGHT, VAMPIRELLA. AND PERHAPS, MY DEAREST, THESE NEW ARRIVALS ARE EVEN MORE ADEPT AT DEALING WITH DEATH. PERHAPS THEY ARE EVEN MORE FIT THAN YOU. THE CYCLE NEVER ENDS... BEWARE, MY DARLING!

THEY SEE US! THE SHIP IS CIRCLING!

WILL THERE BE NO END TO ALL OF THIS?

EAT OF THE GRONOS SO THAT YOU MAY GAIN STRENGTH!

I MUST WILL MYSELF INTO A BAT... THEY WILL NOT BE AWARE OF MY PRESENCE.

WHERE IS THE GIRL?

I DON'T KNOW, I DON'T SEE HER!

CAREFUL!

A BAT!

SCORCH IT!

THEY'RE OVER THERE...

WHAT KIND OF PLACE IS THIS?

WOUNDED, THE BAT LIES MOTIONLESS.

SHE'S HURT... I MUST GO TO HER ...HELP HER...

STAY RIGHT WHERE YOU ARE, YOU FREAK.

TRISTAN LUNGES FORWARD...

THERE IS NO TIME TO THINK OF MY WOUNDS... I MUST CHANGE AGAIN... QUICKLY... HELP TRISTAN!

BEFORE HER EYES, THE EARTHMEN'S DEADLY LASER BEAMS REDUCE TRISTAN TO NO MORE THAN A MEMORY.

GRAB HER! PIN HER ARMS BEHIND HER!

SHE'S MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN ANY WOMAN I'VE EVER SEEN! HOLD HER! SHE'S A PRIZE!

YOU'RE NO MATCH FOR US! STOP WASTING YOURSELF! GIVE IN!

LUNGING FORWARD, VAMPIRELLA GOUGES THE NECK OF HER ASSAILANT. LIKE AN ANIMAL TOO FREE TO KNOW ENSLAVEMENT, SHE FIGHTS FREE WITH ALL HER WILL. THE MEMORY OF TRISTANS LAST MOMENTS BURNED INTO HER AS SURELY AS WITH LASSERS.

STAY BACK! I HAVE NO WISH TO HARM YOU FURTHER. DO NOT FORCE ME TO FEED UPON YOU!

WHATEVER KIND OF BEING ARE YOU? YOU MUST NOT LEAVE ME HERE! I'M ALONE... WHAT IF...!

WHAT DID YOU CARE WHEN HE AND I WERE ALONE?

...HIS VOICE ALMOST THAT OF A SMALL ANIMAL, CRYING IN PAIN...

PLEASE DON'T GO! YOU'RE THE MOST BEAUTIFUL CREATURE I'VE EVER SEEN! PLEASE!

DISTURBING MEMORIES HURL VAMPIRELLA BACK TO THE PRESENT WHERE SHE MUST DEAL WITH THE PROBLEMS OF TODAY AND NOT THE MEMORIES OF YESTERDAY.

ALMOST DAYLIGHT. NIGHT BREEDS TOO MANY MEMORIES. I MUST LEAVE HERE NOW.

SUDDENLY A MUDDIED HAND ERUPTS FROM THE EARTH!

THE DARK SPECTRE OF A BODY FRANTICALLY SHOVING ITS WAY FORWARD AS IF DRAWN BY THE NEW DAYS SUN...

HOW LITTLE TIME THERE IS, GIRL OF DRAKULON... YOU WHO DREAM OF THE PAST LONG GONE... UNAWARE OF THE DANGER ALMOST UPON YOU... A DANGER COME FROM INSIDE THE EARTH!

STAY, VAMPIRELLA! REMAIN CROUCHED... FOR YOU ARE MOST DEFENSELESS THAT WAY... AND ALL THE MORE BEAUTIFUL!

PUT YOUR HANDS BEHIND YOU, MY SWEET. SO MY EYES MAY FEAST ON ALL OF YOU!

COME, VAMPIRELLA! YOUR HANDS BEHIND YOUR BACK AS IF THEY ARE FETTERED... AS IF SOMEONE HAD ACTUALLY BESTED HER WHOM THEY CALL VAMPIRELLA!

MY BEAUTIFUL VAMPIRELLA... MOST BEAUTIFUL WHEN SHE IS MOST HELPLESS!

YOU KNOW ME, SWEET! YOU KNOW ME WELL, DON'T YOU, MY SWEET? FROM ANOTHER TIME... ANOTHER PLACE. YOU THOUGHT ME DEAD... DIDN'T YOU, MY RAVEN-TRESSED BEAUTY?

YOU WERE MY FAIR... MY ONLY... BUT, FORGIVE ME. I AM NOT DRESSED FOR THE OCCASSION ALLOW ME TO WIPE MY FACE CLEAN.

YOU ARE MOST BEAUTIFUL THAT WAY... AS I HAVE ALWAYS WANTED YOU... AT YOUR WEAKEST... YOU WERE ALWAYS SO STRONG AND I... I ALWAYS SO WEAK. NOW, MY SWEET, THE TABLES ARE TURNED!

YOU KNEW, DIDN'T YOU?... THAT IT WAS TRISTAN WHO STOOD BEFORE YOU!

CRY NO TEARS FOR HIM ONCE ***CALLED TRISTAN!*** FOR NO LONGER WILL I BE KNOWN AS IDYLLIC TRISTAN!

NO LONGER! DO YOU UNDER-STAND? THIS IS NOT WEAK TRISTAN BEFORE YOU! ***NO!***

WHERE IS YOUR VOICE, WOMAN? FRAIL, FOOLISH WOMAN! WHERE THE VAUNTED STRENGTH WHICH BROUGHT THE FATTED GRONOS TO TRISTAN?

WHERE, PRAYTELL, IS OUR MIGHTY VAMPIRELLA? NOT STRUCK DUMB WITH LOVE, IS SHE?...HER PRAYERS ANSWERED... FAIR TRISTAN THE WEAKLING, RETURNED TO HER...

DO YOU WONDER AT MY STRENGTH, WIND TOSSED CREATURE YOUR STRUGGLES AMUSE ME, WENCH! TRULY AMUSE ME!

*PIG!* DO YOU HEAR ME? *PIG!* YOU ARE NO BETTER THAN THE FATTED GRONOS, FATTED WITH THE CURDLED MILK OF LOVE GONE SOUR!

YOU WOULD NOT HAVE ME... OR MY IDEALS! RATHER YOU CHOSE HUMILIATION! HERE, TRISTAN...THE GRONOS... EAT OF THE GRONOS, MY TRISTAN!

'EAT OF THE GRONOS, TRISTAN. I KILLED IT FOR YOU. EAT OF THE GRONOS!'

ALWAYS SO WEAK... WHY AM I WEAK NOW?...

VAMPIERELLA WAITS IN SILENCE, LISTENING TO THE SMALL AND FRIGHTENED SOBS COMING FROM TRISTAN.

WHERE DID YOU COME FROM, TRISTAN?

LASER BEAMS... BURNING AWAY... FALLING...

"OTHERS CAME IN THE NIGHT... THOSE FEW WHO WERE LEFT... COME TO BURY THE DEAD..."

"THEY TOOK ME WHERE THE GROUND WAS WET ...LIKE A BLANKET OF WATER DRIPPING IN ON ME... ALONE, IN MY SHROUD... REMEMBER EVERYTHING... BEING LEFT THERE... FOR DEAD... MY WOUNDS BURNING..."

IT WAS BLOOD. THEY BURIED ME WHERE A RIVER HAD FLOWED BEFORE THE DROUGHT... BLOOD SINKING DOWN INTO THE EARTH, DEEPER, FLOWING INTO ME... RESTORING ME... FADING FROM ABOVE... SINKING INTO THE EARTH, INTO ME... I WAS THE EARTH AND THE EARTH WAS FEEDING ME...

YOU CAME BACK TO ME, TRISTAN!

YES! I CAME BACK TO YOU! SWAM THROUGH HARD, DRYING EARTH...CARVED MY WAY UP THROUGH THE EARTH TO RETURN TO YOU! LOVE CONQUERS ALL!

PLEASE, TRISTAN!

THIS IS NOT TRISTAN BEFORE YOU, FOOL!

I WILL TAKE YOU SOMEDAY, VAMPIRELLA! TAKE YOU IN THE DARKEST OF NIGHT! TAKE YOU BY THAT BEGUILING THROAT AND... KILL YOU, MY SWEET!

PLEASE TRISTAN! STOP! I DON'T WANT TO HAVE TO HURT YOU! I COULDN'T STAND TO HURT YOU! PLEASE!

I WILL FOLLOW YOU, VAMPIRELLA! FOLLOW YOU UNTIL YOU ARE AT YOUR WEAKEST! FOLLOW YOU WHEREVER YOU MAY GO! FOLLOW YOU AND MURDER YOU AS SURELY AS YOU MURDERED ME WITH YOUR PITY!

UNAWARE OF ANYTHING BUT HIS OWN ALL-CONSUMING RAGE, TRISTAN'S GRIP CLOSES IN ON AIR...

ACCURSED CREATURE! HOW COULD I LOSE YOU SO EASILY?

HEAR ME! YOU WANTED ME TO BE STRONG AND NOW I AM STRONG! I WANT NO MORE TO BE FED ON YOUR PIOUS, SELFLESS PITY!

NO LONGER, WILL I BE KNOWN AS PITIABLE TRISTAN. ...I WILL BE ***MERCADO!*** HEAR ME, WIND! ***MERCADO!*** DO YOU HEAR ME, ***MERCADO!***

NOTHING HERE, ONLY DEATH... AND THE MOCKERY OF DEATH. TRISTAN IS A GHOST OF HIMSELF... HIS EVERY TORTURED WORD MOCKS WHAT NOW IS ONLY A SPECTRAL LOVE! I CANNOT REMAIN HERE, A WITNESS TO MY WORLDS FUNERAL PYRE! I MUST LEAVE!

EVEN NOW... AS I WATCH MY DEAR TRISTAN... SOMETHING IN HIM IS KILLING ME. OUR LOVE, SOURED TO HATE, WILL BE MY DEATH!

I MUST LEAVE HERE! I AM SURROUNDED BY SHADOWS! MOCKING, DYING SHADOWS!

...I AM RESPONSIBLE TO NO ONE... THOSE EARTHMEN... THEY LEFT THEIR SPACESHIP. I CAN USE THAT TO GO ELSE-WHERE... LEAVE THIS WORLD GONE MAD... I WILL SEEK RELEASE IN ANOTHER WORLD!

A LONE SPACESHIP FLOATS THROUGH INFINITY, CUTTING ARCS OVER THE STARS... IT'S ONLY PASSENGER A GIRL OF ALMOST OTHER-WORLDLY BEAUTY... CAREFULLY MANIPULATING THE CONTROLS WHICH GUIDE HER DESTINY!

SOMEWHERE ON EARTH, IT IS NIGHT AND BATS HANG IN SLEEP, CLUSTERED FOR WARMTH IN THE DARKNESS OF A CHURCH'S SPIRES. ONE PERHAPS, DREAMING OF OTHER WORLDS AND OTHER TIMES...

So you're going to be a PIG about it? You say you want LORE for your money? Here's a sweet young MYTH who'll try to amuse you while your blood runs cold to the haunting doom of.....

# CURSE OF CIRCE

©UT OF THE MISTS OF FOLKLORE AND LEGENDRY COMES THE TERRIBLE WHISPER OF EVIL ENCHANTMENT AND LETHAL LEGENDRY KNOWN AS **CIRCE**. THE OLD TALES ARE WRITTEN OFF AS MAUNDERINGS OF IMAGINATIVE MINDS, BUT THE LADY OF THE PIGS IS AS REAL AS TODAY! ON HER ISLAND, MEN ARE TURNED TO BOARS AND TUSKERS, AND HER ISLAND CAN BE FOUND-- BUT READ ON, READ ON...

COME TO ME, YOU TRAVELERS OF THE STORM-TOSSED SEAS! HERE ON MY ISLAND THERE IS NO TIME--NOTHING BUT MY BEAUTY TO ENTHRALL YOU AND MY WILL TO MAKE YOU FORGET YOUR CARES AND WOES. **IO! IO!** COME TO ME... TO...CIRCE..

THE VOICE WAS A MERE WHISPER IN THE WIND THAT MOANED ABOUT THE CRUISE SHIP ON WHICH PAUL MADDEN WAS VOYAGING THROUGH THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA...

ART BY JERRY GRANDENETTI/STORY BY GARDNER FOX

STRANGE! IT'S AS IF THE WIND WERE-- TALKING TO ME! INVITING ME TO COME WITH IT...TO FAR PLACES...BUT THAT'S RIDICULOUS!

I MUST'VE HAD TOO MUCH BUBBLEY AT THE CAPTAIN'S TABLE TONIGHT!

ALL THROUGH THE NIGHT THE WIND GREW STRONGER...***STRONGER!*** UNTIL TOWARD MORNING, DRIVEN BY TREMENDOUS GALES--THE CRUISE SHIP STRUCK A STONE WALL--WHERE NO WALL COULD POSSIBLY EXIST!...

KRAASH

AND INTO THOSE AWESOMELY HEAVING WATERS, PAUL MADDEN WAS FLUNG LIKE A STRAW MAN...

NOBODY SAW ME GO OVERBOARD! I'LL... DROWN...

WHAM!

THE CURRENTS DRAGGED THE DESPERATELY STRUGGLING MAN DOWNWARD--YET THE SEA COULD NOT QUITE SWALLOW HIM...

NO WAY TO FIGHT THESE BIG WAVES-- EVEN IF I AM A GOOD SWIMMER.

WITH MORNING, AS HIS SALT-CAKED EYES OPENED...

WHE-WHERE AM I? SAY--***WAIT!*** WHO ARE ***YOU?*** WHAT ARE YOU ***DOING?***

WHY, YOU'RE DRAGGING ME BACK INTO THE SEA! LET GO...

THE SEA IS SAFER THAN THE LAND--ON THIS ISLAND!

PLEASE! I WILL FLEE WITH YOU. THIS IS A BAD PLACE.

SAY, WHAT ARE YOU--- SOME KIND OF NUT? HERE I AM LUCKY TO BE ALIVE--AND YOU WANT ME TO GO BACK IN THAT SEA AGAIN!

A VOICE LIKE THE SONG OF THE BREEZE IN POPLAR TREES CALLS SOFTLY...

HELEN! BRING THE YOUNG MAN TO ME.

IT'S TOO LATE NOW...***TOO LATE!***

MAN--WHAT A DISH!

CIRCE THE ENCHANTRESS BECKONS...AND ALL MEN MUST OBEY!...

I DIDN'T KNOW THEY MADE GIRLS LIKE YOU ANY MORE! I'M COMING, HONEY--JUST AS FAST AS I CAN.

THE BEAUTY OF CIRCE IS LIKE A SAVAGE DRUMBEAT, THRILLING AND EXCITING! IT THRALLS, IT MESMERIZES....

WELCOME, YOUNG MAN--WELCOME!

HER IVORY ARMS GO ABOUT HIS NECK. HER LIPS, AS THEY KISS, BURN WITH AN ENCHANTING FLAME....

OH, I'M GOING TO LIKE IT HERE!

YOU SHALL REST, FIRST. AND THEN YOU SHALL BATHE AND AFTER THAT--THE FEASTING AND THE LOVING.

BEMUSED--YET NOT QUESTIONING HIS FATE--PAUL RESTS THEN...

I WARNED YOU!

YOU'RE JUST JEALOUS, HELEN. BUT I DON'T HOLD IT AGAINST YOU. ANY GIRL WOULD BE JEALOUS OF--HER!

WINE! SONG! AND OF COURSE--WOMEN! WOMEN SUCH AS PAUL MADDEN HAD NEVER SEEN. AND SMILING DOWN FROM HER EBONY AND IVORY THRONE, THE LOVELIEST OF THEM ALL.....

CIRCE!.

AND HELEN WANTED TO SCARE ME OFF FROM A LIFE LIKE THIS!

AFTER THE FEASTING--- THE LOVING, MY HANDSOME DARLING! IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE ANY-ONE LIKE YOU VISITED MY ISLAND!

IN THE SHADOWS OF THE NIGHT, MUCH LATER....

QUAFF DEEP OF THIS ELIXIR OF THE GODS!

IN THE ARMS OF CIRCE A MAN FORGETS HIS NAME, WHAT HE WAS AND WHAT HE EVER HOPES TO BE: ALL HE KNOWS IS PLEASURE.....

BUT IN THE MORNING...

WHERE IS SHE? AND-- WHAT AM I DOING ON THE FLOOR? I FEEL SO STRANGE. HAVE I SHRUNK? OR.....

A BOAR CANNOT SCREAM. OR PAUL MADDEN MIGHT HAVE SCREAMED HIS LUNGS OUT ON SEEING WHAT HE IS AND WHAT HE HAS BECOME!...

OUT! OUT! YOU'RE JUST ONE OF HER SWINE NOW!

SCAT!

THIS CAN'T BE HAPPENING! I--I'M DRUNK AND DELIRIOUS--

--SOMEWHERE....

PALSIED WITH FEAR AND SHOCK, PAUL MADDEN RAN THROUGH THE ISLAND WOODS. DAZED AND INCREDULOUS, HE STILL CANNOT ACCEPT HIS FANTASTIC FATE...

I STILL DON'T BELIEVE IT! IF THIS IS REALITY, THEN THAT WOMAN MUST BE....

CIRCE!

HALF OUT OF HIS MIND, ALMOST BELIEVING THAT HE IS MAD, THE BOAR THAT WAS PAUL MADDEN FLED THROUGH THE DENSE WOODS OF THIS EERIE ISLAND.

I REMEMBER IN THE ODYSSEY THAT TELLS OF CIRCE'S ISLAND--ULYSSES ATE A PLANT CALLED 'MOLY' AND WAS SAVED FROM HER ENCHANTMENTS....

A SOFT VOICE CALLED...

PAUL MADDEN-- COME TO ME. PAULLLLLL....PAULLLLL....

I DON'T KNOW WHAT MOLY LOOKS LIKE AND--*WHAT'S THAT?*

COME, PAUL. FEED ON THIS HERB THAT WILL GIVE YOU BACK YOUR HUMANITY!

HELEN! I SHOULD HAVE LISTENED TO HER. NOW SHE'S SAVING ME---IN SPITE OF MYSELF!

SLOWLY HIS BODY CHANGED...

IT'S BEGINNING TO...

...WORK ON...

....ME!

I'VE GOT MY BODY BACK!

HAND IN HAND PAUL AND HELEN FLED INTO THE SEA..

WE'RE GETTING OUT OF HERE, HONEY-- AND YOU'RE COMING WITH ME!

A PASSING SHIP WILL PICK US UP...

ONCE AGAIN A STORM ROSE, TRAPPING THE SWIMMERS IN ITS VAST WAVES...

I CAN'T GO ON! I'M--GOING-- DOWN...

WHAM

NO, HELEN. YOU SAVED ME, SO IT'S MY TURN TO SAVE YOU.

WITH MORNING, TWO BODIES LIE ON THE SANDY SHELF OF ONE OF THE BALEARIC ISLANDS.

THEY'RE DEAD! BUT WHAT'S THIS DRESS THEY'RE BOTH WEARING?

I'VE SEEN PICTURES OF SOMETHING LIKE THAT IN THE MUSEUM IN BARCELONA. IT'S CALLED A CHITON.

WHY ARE THEY WEARING 'EM? HEY! MAYBE IT WAS ONE OF THEM ***COSTUME PARTIES!***

YES. THAT MUST BE THE ANSWER.

I HOPE YOU ENJOYED THAT LITTLE BITTY--- THINK I'LL TRY ON ONE OF THOSE CHITONS. WANNA HELP ME, GUYS?

KIDS COMPLAIN A LOT THESE DAY ABOUT THERE NOT BEING ENOUGH IN-SPOTS TO MEET KIDS OF THE OPPOSITE SEX! WELL, PUT ON YOUR SHADES AND COME DOWN TO THE BEACH FOR A MOON-TAN! BUT I CAN'T PROMISE YOU JUST **WHAT KIND** OF FOLKS YOU'LL MEET! FOR INSTANCE, LIKE THE

# GODDESS FROM THE SEA

HER SKIN, BLUE-GREEN AS THE WATERS OF HER BIRTH, SHOWN MAJESTICALLY UNDER THE SPRAY OF MOOM BEAMS..

HOLY...! IT'S A GIRL! AND SHE'S HEADED THIS WAY!

ART BY NEAL ADAMS/STORY BY DON GLUT

WHEN A MAN SEES SUCH A VISION, THE WORD 'WAIT' DOES NOT EXIST.. HE WAS DASHING OUT INTO THE SAND...

YOUR SKIN, ALMOST GREEN... I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYONE LIKE YOU! WHO ARE YOU, AND WHERE DO YOU COME FROM?

I COME FROM OUT THERE... BUT PLEASE! I HAVE LITTLE TIME! TAKE ME INTO YOUR HOME

UHH... YOU DIDN'T REALLY EXPECT ME TO REFUSE, DID YOU?

THEN WE MUST HURRY! WHEN WE GET INSIDE *PLEASE* LOCK THE DOOR AND PRAY WE WILL BE SAFE.

ASSURING THE STRANGE BEAUTY THAT THE LOCK WAS SECURE, HE TURNED HIS GAZE TO HER TEMPTUIOUS STARE...

NOW, HONEY... LET'S SIT DOWN! AND YOU CAN TELL ME WHAT'S GOING ON! HOLD IT, YOU MUST BE FREEZING, YOU JUST CAME OUT OF THE WATER!

*NO!* I AM... USED TO THE COLD! MY... MY NAME IS LALORA...

AND I'M JIM... JIM JUDSON! BUT YOUR... SKIN?

...I AM NOT LIKE YOU! I AM FROM BELOW THE SEA... FROM THE UNDER-WATER REALM YOU KNOW AS... *ATLANTIS!*

*ATLANTIS!?*... I... FIND THAT HARD TO BELIEVE ...BUT YOUR HAIR... YOUR SKIN...

THERE IS NO TIME TO PROVE MY ORIGIN! MY APPEARANCE SHOULD BE ENOUGH! WHAT *IS* IMPORTANT IS THAT YOU MUST HIDE ME!

HIDE YOU? A BEAUTIFUL CHICK LIKE YOU? FROM *WHAT*?

FROM *OTHERS* OF MY RACE! I FLED FROM ATLANTIS TO YOUR SURFACE WORLD... TO ESCAPE THE TYRANNY, THE SUPPRESSION OF THE *WARLORDS*... BUT AS I ESCAPED, I WAS OBSERVED... AND FOLLOWED! I MANAGED TO EVADE THEM FOR AWHILE... BUT THEY GAINED ON ME!

THERE ARE SEVEN PURSUING ME... ENOUGH TO PLUCK ME FROM THIS MASSIVE SURFACE WORLD... AND PREVENT MY REVEALLING TO THE LAND DWELLERS THE SECRETS AND HORRORS OF ATLANTIS!

PLEASE TAKE ME FAR AWAY FROM HERE, QUICKLY!

YOUR STORY IS PRETTY HARD TO TAKE! BUT... OKAY! I'LL TAKE YOU TO THE CITY WHERE THEY'LL NEVER FIND YOU!

BUT THE LIPS OF THE SURFACE MAN SURPRISED HER PROTESTS AND SHE MELTED...

SUDDENLY, OBSCENELY SHATTERING THE MOMENT OF LOVE BETWEEN THE INHABITANTS OF TWO WORLDS...

IT WAS INSTINCT...AND LOVE...RATHER THAN LOGIC THAT GUIDED JIM'S HANDS...

YOU MIGHT GET HER EVENTUALLY, BUT NOT TILL I'VE DONE MY DARNDEST TO PREVENT YOU!

YOU EXPECT TO STOP US WITH...*THAT!*

THE THOUGHT OF LALORA'S DANGER RACED THROUGH JIM'S MIND... SEETHING RAGE COURSED THROUGH HIS VEINS...

CHEW ON THAT FOR AWHILE!

SEIZING UPON THE DISTURBANCE, JIM'S POWERFUL HAND YANKED AWAY THE FALLEN WARLORD'S WEAPON...

HE IS ONLY ONE! ATTACK THE TERRAN!

ZUK

ONCE THE THRILL OF BATTLE ANIMATED JIM JUDSON HE FOUGHT LIKE A DEMON POSSESED...

YIIIII! HE TURNS OUR OWN POWER, AGAINST US!

HE HAS SLAIN NAMLOOC! HE FIGHTS WITH THE SPIRIT OF A DEVILFISH!

EVEN AS THE BLOOD OF THE ATLANTEANS BURNED HIS NOSTRILS WITH IT'S STENCH.

QUICKLY! WHILE HE BATTLES... NAMGIB AND NAMELTTIL TAKE THE FUGITIVE!

LALORA'S SCREAMS INCITED HIM TO NEW FURY. JIM JUDSON LUNGED AGAIN AND AGAIN...

LALORA! NO!

ARRGH!

AND IN HIS NEXT BREATH...

IT'S DONE!

AGAIN AND AGAIN, THE BEAUTY SCREAMED, AS MIGHTY HANDS DRAGGED HER TOWARD THE SEA...

LALORA... NO! I'LL KILL BOTH OF YOU... WITH MY BARE HANDS, STOP!

JIM! JIM!

I'M COMING, LALORA! THEY WON'T TAKE YOU!

QUIET, FOOL HE'S TOO LATE!

THE THREE ATLANTEANS VANISHED BELOW THE SURFACE AND WITH PASIONED ABANDON JIM HEAVED HIMSELF AFTER THEM...

LALORA!

WITH BURSTING LUNGS, JIM PURSUED, AWARE THAT HIS QUEST COULD ONLY LEAD TO DEATH...

CAN'T HOLD... BREATH ...LONGER! BUT CAN'T GO BACK... WITHOUT ... HER!

AS THE WATER FLOODED HIS BODY, BLOATING HIM, THE IMAGE OF HIS GODDESS BROUGHT HIM TO GRIM REALITY... ONE BRIEF MOMENT OF SANITY BURST THROUGH BEFORE BLACKNESS CLAIMED JIMS LIFE.

...SURFACE MEN ARE WEAK AND EASY TO FOOL! IT WAS WORTH THE LOSS OF SOME OF MY SUBJECTS TO LEARN THIS!

JIM JUDSON BLEW IT, DIDN'T HE? HE SHOULD HAVE REALIZED FROM THE START THE TALE OF ATLANTIS WOULD BE HARD TO SWALLOW!

THE END

# THE CURSE

HE WAS AFRAID... THAT MUCH HE KNEW. AND THAT SOMETHING HAD JUST HAPPENED... SOMETHING TERRIBLE, BUT WHAT IT WAS HE DID NOT KNOW. HE DID NOT KNOW WHERE HE WAS OR HOW HE HAD COME TO BE THERE...

...IT WAS AS IF THIS WAS THE VERY FIRST MOMENT OF TIME... AND FOR HIM IT WAS. THERE WAS NO MEMORY OF YESTERDAY TO GIVE HIM IDENTITY...

THIRSTY...

WHAT-?! NO!

NO! THAT IS NOT ME! IT CAN'T BE!

ART BY WALLY WOOD STORY BY WALLY WOOD

HE SOON CAME UPON A CLEARING, AND...

COME.. I HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU...

THE WOMAN LED HIM INSIDE AND BEGAN TO PREPARE DINNER, AS SHE WORKED, SHE TALKED... AND AS SHE TALKED, HE BEGAN TO UNDERSTAND...

I AM ZARA... YOU DO NOT KNOW YOUR NAME?

NO, I...

BUT.. ENOUGH OF THAT FOR NOW... WE SHALL DISCUSS IT ALL WHEN WE HAVE EATEN...

THEN... SOMEONE HAS SOMEHOW STOLEN MY MEMORY... MY IDENTITY... AND TURNED ME INTO THIS THING THAT I AM...

YES... YOU ARE THE VICTIM OF A SPELL, AN ENCHANTMENT... AS I AM!

BUT I KNOW WHO IS RESPONSIBLE, AND IF YOU WILL HELP ME, PERHAPS WE CAN DO SOMETHING!

WHAT IS YOUR CURSE? YOU DO NOT SEEM TO BE—

I WILL TELL YOU OF THAT WHEN IT IS TIME... BUT I KNOW THAT IT WAS THE WORK OF THE WITCH ARACHNE, WHO DWELLS NEARBY...

I MUST CALL YOU SOMETHING. HOW ABOUT ZORG? I LIKE THAT! WILL YOU HELP ME, ZORG?

BUT... WHAT CAN I DO? I AM NO WIZARD...

THE SWORD IS ENCHANTED... IT WILL KILL A WITCH, NO MATTER WHAT MAGICAL PROTECTION SHE HAS...

I WILL ATTRACT HER WHOLE ATTENTION TO ME, AND YOU WILL STRIKE!

ALL YOU NEED FEAR IS THAT YOU WILL BEGIN TO BELIEVE IN HER ILLUSIONS, APPARITIONS... AND I CAN HELP YOU TO AVOID THAT...

VERY WELL... I WILL DO IT...

LET US GO...

PRESENTLY, THEY EMERGED FROM THE FOREST...

ONE MORE QUESTION, ZARA.. ARE YOU A WITCH TOO?

NO, I AM NOT... BUT I LEARNED SOMETHING OF SORCERY FROM... FROM MY MOTHER..

BUT NOW, NO MORE QUESTIONS! WE WILL SOON BE IN THE LAND OF ARACHNE.. SO BE PREPARED...

...FOR MADNESS!

LOOK! UP ON THAT CLIFF!

IT IS A SIGN WE ARE ENTERING THE LAND OF THE WITCH... IT SERVES TO DISCOURAGE INTRUDERS!

...AND FEELING THE FEAR GROW IN HIS HEART, AND WITH GREAT MISGIVINGS, ZORG FOLLOWED THE GIRL PAST THE HOLLOW STARE OF THE EERIE SENTINEL...

SUDDENLY, AS THEY ROUNDED A BEND...

LOOK OUT! A MONSTER!

NO! STOP! IT IS BUT AN ILLUSION!

YOU ARE RUNNING INTO...

... A TRAP!

MY ANKLE!

THE LIVING DEAD!

THEY ARE *REAL*, THEN?

YES.. AND THEY CAN KILL US! THIS WAY... QUICK!

THEY FOUND CONCEALMENT BEHIND A BOULDER, AND FROM THEIR VANTAGE POINT WATCHED THE EMERGENCE OF A GHASTLY ARMY... AN ARMY OF THE DEAD!

ZARA INDICATED A BOULDER, AND HE PUSHED IT ASIDE...

QUICK! INTO THE TUNNEL! THEY HAVE SEEN US!

YES, ZARA... BUT I.. I AM AFRAID...

EEEEE! OH, FORGIVE ME, ZORG! I CAN BE FOOLED, TOO!

SOMETHING HAS SEIZED ME!

ZARA! I AM BEING DEVOURED!

KEEP FOLLOWING ME! IT IS NOT REAL! REMEMBER THAT!

WE HAVE ARRIVED! THE MOUTH OF THE SKULL IS THE DOORWAY... AND YOU MUST GO ON AHEAD!

FOR, UNLESS I CAN MAKE MY ENTRANCE UNSEEN, WE HAVE NO CHANCE!

NOW, GO, AND PLEASE REMEMBER... YOU ***MUST*** HOLD HER ATTENTION UNTIL I ARRIVE!

HIS FLESH CRAWLING IN ANTICIPATION OF PAIN, HE STRODE INTO THE FLAMES...

A MOMENT OF PANIC, AND HE WAS INSIDE! AT THE SIGHT OF A GIANT SPIDER, HE PAUSED, INDECISIVE...

THAT SPIDER... CAN IT BE THE WITCH?

...AND THEN THE ROOM WAS FULL OF MONSTERS, ATTACKING HIM WITH SAVAGE FRENZY FROM ALL SIDES...

HE KNEW, AND YET DID NOT KNOW, THAT HE WAS FIGHTING PHANTOMS... HE FELT PAIN AS SHARP TEETH RIPPED INTO HIS THROAT...

SUDDENLY, HIS MIND WAS CLEAR... AND HE SAW THAT THE BEAST WAS HIS OWN HAND! THEN HE REALIZED...

...IT WAS BECAUSE ZARA HAD ENTERED!

HELLO, MOTHER!

WELL, DAUGHTER! YOU HAVE COME AT LAST...

FOR A MOMENT THERE WAS ABSOLUTE SILENCE... THEN THE VERY AIR ABOUT THEM WAS RENT BY UNSEEN FORCES, AND THE SPIDER WAS NO LONGER A SPIDER, BUT A VERY OLD WOMAN...

...WHO FIXED HER EVIL GAZE UPON ZARA... A BOLT OF FORCE SEEMED TO LEAP OUT AT THE GIRL...

EEEEEEE

...AND ZARA CRUMPLED TO THE GROUND..

BUT IN THAT INSTANT, ZORG ACTED...

THEN SWORD DROPPING FROM NERVELESS FINGERS, HE TURNED TO THE FALLEN ZARA...

WE'VE *DONE* IT, ZARA!

ZARA! ARE... ARE YOU GOING TO... *DIE?*

AND THEN, AS HE CRADLED THE FALLEN SORCERESS IN HIS ARMS, SHE BEGAN TO SPEAK, IN A VOICE ALMOST INAUDIBLE...

YES... I AM DYING, ZORG... BUT DO NOT WEEP FOR ME...

I *WANT* TO DIE... THAT WAS PART OF MY PURPOSE IN COMING HERE! THE OTHER PART WAS TO AVENGE MYSELF ON *HER*...

BUT... NOW TAKE ME OUT OF HERE... I DO NOT WISH TO DIE IN THIS PLACE...

ZARA, I DON'T UNDER-STAND... SHE IS DEAD, BUT I AM STILL THE SAME...

THAT IS BECAUSE IT WAS *NOT* SHE WHO CAST THE SPELL UPON YOU... IT WAS I! WITH *MY DEATH* YOU WILL BE FREE!

WHAT?! YOU? BUT... I...

DON'T... PLEASE DON'T HATE ME, ZORG... I TRICKED YOU BECAUSE I COULD NOT SLAY HER MYSELF... I NEEDED SOMEONE TO DO IT WHILE I FOCUSSED HER MAGIC ON ME...

FORGIVE ME... AND DO NOT WEEP... I AM MORE THAN A THOUSAND YEARS OLD, AND WEARY OF LIFE... MY CURSE WAS IMMORTALITY!

NOW *SHE* IS DEAD, AND I CAN DIE, AND ALL IS RIGHT...

ZARA!

THEN THE PAIN BEGAN, AND HE KNEW SHE WAS DEAD. SLOWLY HE RETURNED TO HIS TRUE FORM, AND IN THAT ONE LAST MOMENT OF INTELLIGENCE, HE KNEW...

...AND UNDERSTOOD...

...AND HAPPILY SLITHERED OFF TO THE BOG, WHERE HIS ANXIOUS FAMILY WAITED FOR HIM.

THE END

IN THIS *VENOMOUS* LITTLE TALE, YOU WILL MEET A *CHARMING* REPTILE WHO *SWINGS* INSTEAD OF *SLITHERS*. WE GUARANTEE THAT SHE'LL HAVE YOU MESMERIZED WITH HER...

# SNAKE EYES

IT WAS A WARM SUMMER NIGHT, HAZY AND FULL OF THE CRISP EVENING SOUNDS OF FROGS AND CRICKETS. YOUNG SARA FELT A KINSHIP FOR THE COLD-BLOODED NIGHT CREATURES YET SHE WAS ATTRACTED TO THE SUMMER HOUSE EVEN THOUGH SHE KNEW IT CONTAINED ONLY MAMMALS.

HEY THERE, MY NAME'S CHARLIE PITT. DO YOU WANNA SEE MY HAMSTERS? COME ON IN.

MOMMY! MOMMY! SHE ATE THEM! SHE ATE BOTH OF MY HAMSTERS ALIVE!

WHO CHARLIE? WHO DID SUCH AN AWFUL THING?

SHE DID-- SARA!

ART BY JACK SPARLING/STORY BY NICOLA CUTI

SARA WAS A CELEBRITY AT HOFFMAN UNIVERSITY. HER REPTILIAN FEATURES, HER HISSING VOICE, HER COLD PIERCING EYES INSPIRED BOTH FASCINATION AND FEAR IN HER PEERS.

HI THERE, SSSSARA. MY BUT YOUR FANGS LOOK ESSSSPECIALLY SSSSHARP TODAY!

DO YOU LIKE MY GLOVES SARA? THEY'RE MADE OF GENUINE *SNAKESKIN!*

HOWEVER SARA IS NOT WITHOUT A DEFENDER. CHARLIE'S CHILDHOOD HORROR HAS MATURED INTO LOYALTY AND INTEREST.

*OWW!*

NOBODY TALKS TO HER LIKE THAT! YOU APOLOGIZE-- *RIGHT NOW!*

YEAH, CHARLIE, SURE! LOOK, WE DIDN'T MEAN ANY HARM! WE'RE SORRY!

YOU ALL RIGHT, SARA?

SSSURE, CHARLIE!

I'LL PICK YOU UP AFTER YOUR BALLET CLASS. WE'LL HAVE A BITE TO EAT AT SOLLY'S!

CHARLIE THE DREAMER HAD MATURED INTO CHARLIE THE SCHEMER AND HE HAD IDEAS-- A MILLION DOLLARS WORTH!

IT GETSSS WORSSSE EVERY DAY. MY FACE BECOMES MORE AND MORE SSNAKE-LIKE AS I GROW OLDER. SSSISSS. WHAT AM I GOING TO DO CHARLIE!

DON'T WORRY. CHARLIE'S ALWAYS TAKEN CARE OF YOU. INSTEAD OF HIDING YOUR APPEARANCE, WE'LL EXPLOIT IT FOR A DANCE ACT. NO SIDE-SHOW STUFF-- *HIGH CLASS.*

YOUR GRANDPARENTS WERE EGYPTIAN, RIGHT? WHAT BETTER PLACE TO KICK OFF... EGYPT, THE LAND OF SNAKES! YOU'LL BE TREATED LIKE A GODDESS. YOU'LL PERFORM FOR ROYALTY. ALL RIGHT, BABY?

YOU'RE MY PROTECTOR, CHARLIE. WHATEVER YOU SSSAY.

EGYPT, THE KINGDOM OF LEGENDS. HERE IN THE SHADOWS OF THE PYRAMIDS, THE TOMBS OF THE DEMIGOD PHARAOHS, CHARLIE PITT WAS PREPARING TO UNVAIL A NEW GODDESS.

SARA, MORE REPTILIAN THAN HUMAN-- HER HEAD ALMOST COMPLETELY RESEMBLES A COBRA'S BUT HER INSTINCTS ARE A WOMAN'S. SHE PRAYS FOR SUCCESS MORE FOR CHARLIE'S SAKE THAN FOR HER OWN.

THE MUSIC BEGINS. HIGH-PITCHED, HAUNTING MELODIES. HER BODY SWAYS IN RYTHM WITH THE TUNES AND HER NATURAL FLUID MOTION MAKES IT APPEAR AS IF SHE HAS NO SKELETON. AT THE END OF HER DANCE, THE APPLAUSE THUNDERS!

HOW WERE THE REVIEWSSS?

NOT BAD, CONSIDERING. WITH A LITTLE MORE CAPITAL FOR PUBLICITY, I COULD MAKE YOU KNOWN ALL OVER EGYPT.

LET'S GO SIGHT-SEEING. IT'LL TAKE OUR MINDS OFF BUSINESS.

WITHIN THE SACRED TEMPLE OF ARKE-RAN-KE.

I *KNEW* EGYPT WAS THE PLACE FOR YOU, BABY! THIS GUY COULD HAVE BEEN YOUR BROTHER!

MY GRANPARENTSSS SSSENT ME TO AMERICA WHEN I WAS ONLY AN INFANT YET THIS ALL SSSEEMS FAMILIAR TO ME, SSSISS.

SARA, LOOK AT THAT EYE. IT'S EXACTLY LIKE THAT PENDANT YOU ALWAYS WEAR!

YOU'RE RIGHT. IT'SS EXACTLY LIKE IT, HISSS.

EXCUSE ME, BUT I COULDN'T HELP OVER-HEARING. MY NAME IS CECIL TIBBS. MY PARTNER, HASI BARDOV, AND I DEAL IN GEMS. IF THE UH... LADY WILL BRING HER PENDANT TO OUR SHOP PERHAPS WE COULD MAKE A DEAL.

THAT'S A GOOD IDEA. IF WE TURN IT OVER TO THE GOVERNMENT, WE'LL PROBABLY GET NO MORE THAN A GRIN AND HAND-SHAKE.

I DON'T WISH TO SELL IT. BUT I WILL LET YOU EXAMINE IT AND TELL ME WHAT YOU KNOW ABOUT IT!

LATER THAT EVENING...

FORGIVE MY LITTLE PET BUT YOU SEE HE IS A MONGOOSE AND THEY ARE NOTORIOUS SNAKE-EATERS. THE SIGHT OF MISS SARA... WELL...

YES, IT IS AUTHENTIC! IF YOU CARE TO CHANGE YOUR MIND, I AM WILLING TO PAY THREE THOUSAND DOLLARS FOR IT... AMERICAN DOLLARS!

NO! NOT AT ANY PRICE!

ARE YOU CRAZY? WE NEED THAT MONEY FOR ADVERTISING, PUBLICITY, COSTUMES!

IT'S MY HERITAGE. MY GRANDMOTHER PUT IT AROUND MY NECK WHEN I LEFT EGYPT. SSSSST. I'VE A FEELING ABOUT IT, CHARLIE...

I DON'T WANT TO GIVE IT UP!

I'M SORRY GENTLEMEN BUT SHE'S VERY ATTACHED TO HER PENDANT

IT'S A LADY'S PRIVILEGE TO CHANGE HER MIND... SHOULD THAT HAPPEN, I HOPE YOU'LL REMEMBER US!

DREAM'S DIE HARD FOR CHARLIE--AND SOMETIMES THEY ONLY *APPEAR* TO DIE...

SURPRISE, BABY! IT'S A NEW COSTUME-- GO PUT IT ON!

OH, CHARLIE, HOW NICE!

...MUCH BETTER THAN THE OLD ONE! B-BUT... WHERE DID YOU GET THE MONEY!

I SOLD YOUR PENDANT.

SARA! DON'T LOOK AT ME THAT WAY. THINK WHAT THIS MONEY WILL MEAN! SARA!

SSSSSSS.!

SARA'S MIND EXPLODES WITH DAZZLING SUNBURSTS OF LIGHT. SHE STRIKES INSTINCTIVELY BEFORE SHE IS AWARE OF WHAT SHE IS DOING.

NO SARA!

NOOOO!

OH, CHARLIE, WHAT HAVE I DONE? WHY DID YOU HAVE TO SELL MY PENDANT-- *WHY?!*

TIBBS, LOOK AT ITS BRILLIANCE! IT'S WORTH THOUSANDS, PERHAPS EVEN MILLIONS!

DID YOU HEAR THAT? IT CAME FROM THE BACK ROOM.

DID YOU DISCOVER WHAT THE NOISE WAS?

IT WASSS MY HISSSSSING THAT BOTHERED MISSSSTER TIBBSSS, YOU HAVE MY PENDANT. I WANT IT BACK!

PLEASE PRINCESS YOU CAN HAVE IT!

PRINCESSSS? THEN MY GRANDMOTHER'S STORIES WERE TRUE. I AM PRINCESS KE-SARA-AMONKA, THE SNAKE GODDESSSS. MY PEOPLE HAVE WAITED LONG ENOUGH FOR MY RETURN.

YOU HAVE A FEW MOMENTS MORE BEFORE MY VENOM REACHES YOUR BRAIN. IT WILL DRIVE YOU MAD. YOU WILL FOAM LIKE A RABID DOG AND THEN YOU WILL DIE!

THE MUSEUM WAS TO HAVE A LATE VISITOR THIS NIGHT-- ROYALTY!

THE GOD IS NOW COM-PLETE!

VIRRRRRRRRR!

WELCOME, KE-SARA-AMONKA. WE KNEW YOU WOULD RETURN TO US!

THESSSE UNDERGROUND CHAMBERSSS USED TO BE FILLED WITH MY PEOPLE. MY GRAND-MOTHER SSSENT ME AWAY TO AVOID A PLAGUE TO PRESSSRVE ME FOR THISS MOMENT!

PRINCESS, YOU HAVE RETURNED. WE HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU FOR MANY YEARS!

...FOR *WE* ARE THE PLAGUE OF YOUR PEOPLE-- THE *MONGOOSE PEOPLE*-- THE ***SNAKE-EATERS!***

POOR SARA! AFTER PUTTING THE *BITE* ON SO MANY PEOPLE, I'M AFRAID SHE'S GOING TO SUFFER A DIFFERENT ONE... MY NEXT TERROR TALE!

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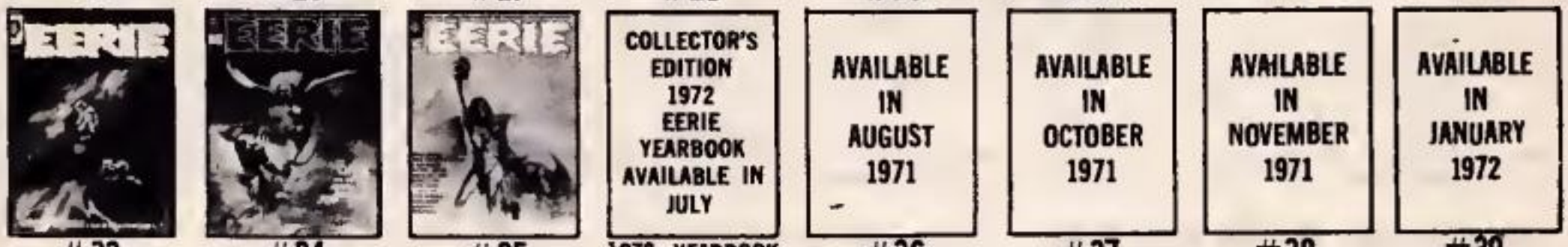

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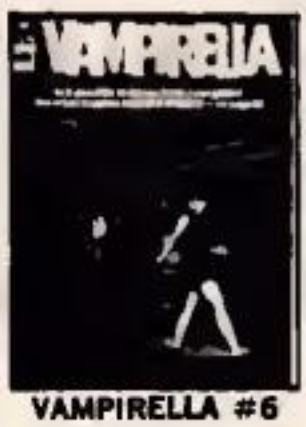
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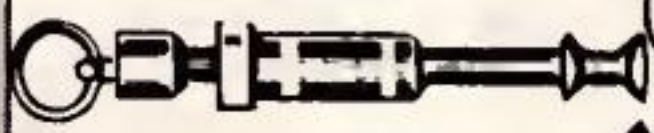

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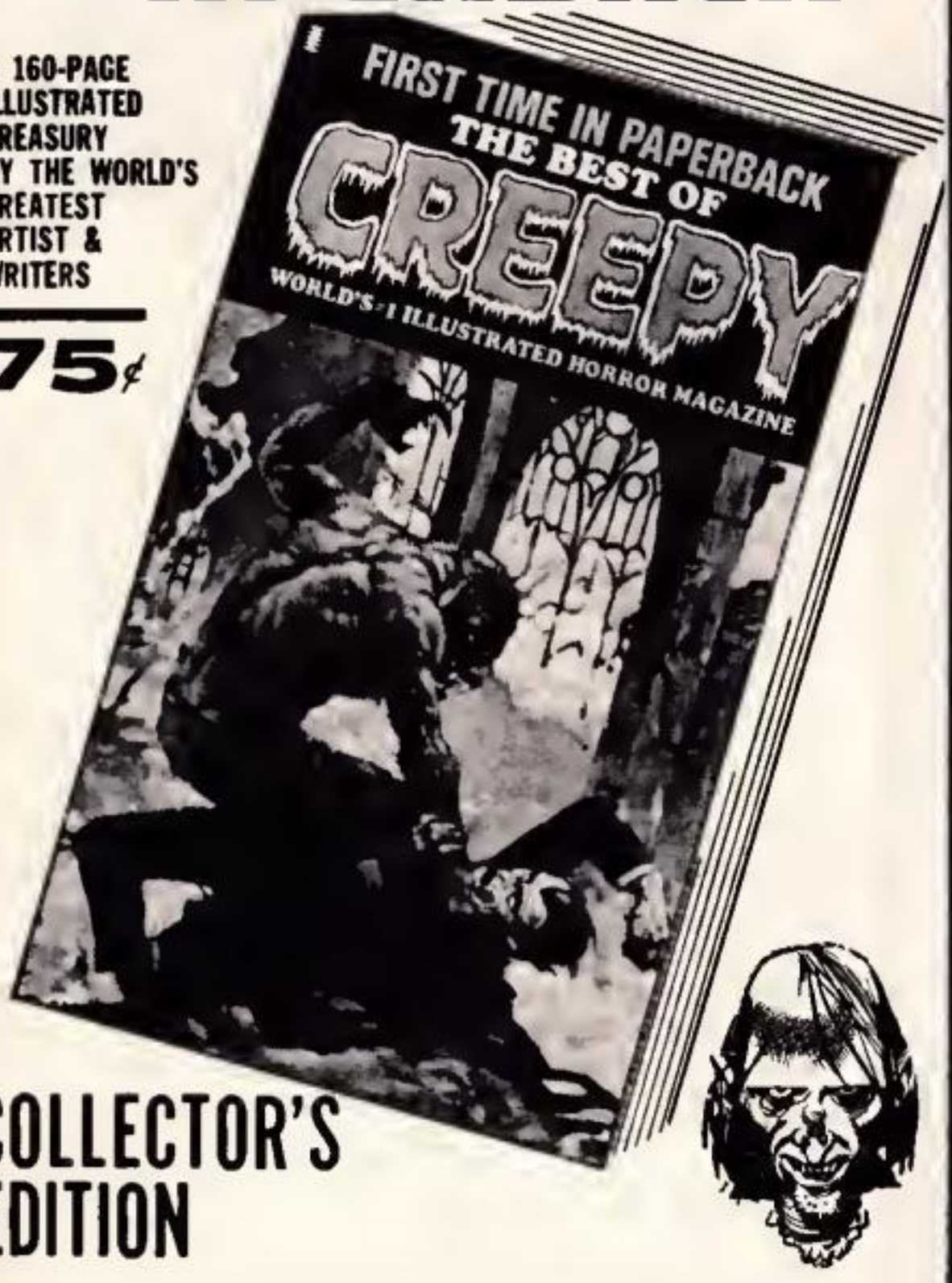


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PROLOGUE: ZODI PULLED BACK ON THE REING OF HER KOG, LOOKING ONCE TO CHECK THE WEAPON NEXT TO HER. ONCE BEFORE, A KRAKATON MONSTER HAD ATTACKED HER IN THIS REGION. ONCE BEFORE, SHE HAD BEEN READY FOR IT....

HER JOURNEY BROUGHT HER NO COMFORT

-FROM THE DOOM OF A WORLD SLOWLY DYING. EVEN HER WHIMS OF HOPE COULD NOT CONCEAL THE TRUTH... THERE WAS NO ESCAPE FROM ULUPHON! YET, EVEN IN THE REFUGE OF THIS WORLD, ZODI COULD NOT DENY HERGELF THE EXISTENCE OF OTHERS....

...SOMEWHERE IN THE CONSTELLATIONS OUTGIDE OF ULUPHON, SHE KNEW OTHER LIFE WAITED. RUMBLING INTERRUPTED HER THOUGHTS...

-AND ZODI TURNED JUST IN TIME TO WATCH THE SHUDDERING CEILING ABOVE HER TREMBLE, THEN YAWN- OPENING A CHASM UPON HER- IT WAS THEN SHE HEARD THE SCREAM!

ART BY DAVID StCLAIR/STORY BY BILL PARENTE

SWING-IN TO MY THING-IN... *VAMPIRELLA-TIVES!*... AND SWING-OUT OF REALITY AS I STEER FOR SOME FEAR THAT'LL FOCUS YOUR POCUS ON *FANTASY!* BUT BE CAREFUL, YOUR GOGGLES MIGHT FOGGLE IN THE BOGGLE OF A...

# FORGOTTEN KINGDOM

NOW AS HE PROBED THE SCREEN OF HIS LIFE-DETECT FINDER, ONLY THE UNINTERRUPTED SCAN OF THE GLOWING BEAM FILLED HIS EYES. BALANCE REMOVED ITSELF AS THE BRITTLE SURFACE BENEATH HIM CRUMBLED AND SENT HIM FALLING....

...PLUNGING THROUGH A WORLD ABOVE HIM THAT HAD DIED DURING TIME... INTO THE REALM OF ANOTHER, WAITING BELOW, WHICH HAD NOT!

LOOK, KOG! IT IS ALIVE! UNTIL I AM CERTAIN WHY IT COMES TO OUR WORLD, I THINK IT BETTER TO .... MAKE SURE IT WILL NOT RESIST- WE MUST BRING IT TO THE TEMPLE OF ONE!

-WE WILL SHOW HER WHAT WE HAVE FOUND - A MAN CREATURE!

HE REMEMBERED FALLING .... BUT THIS PLACE, THIS GIRL - THE CREATURE SHE RODE! WHAT HAD HAPPENED TO HIM? WHAT PLACE WAS THIS?

I MUST CONVINCE HER I MEAN NO HARM. DISCOVERING LIFE HERE MEANG TOO MUCH TO MY WORLD...

A SNARLING THREAT SUDDENLY SNAPPED ZODI'S SENSES INTO ACTION – SHE SAW FOR AN INSTANT THE QUIVERING FORM OF THE BEAST AS IT READIED ITS LEAP. KRAKATON!

THERE WAS NO TIME TO ACT BEYOND REFLEX!

LOST MY RIFLE BACK AT THE CAVE-IN... BUT I CAN STILL USE.....

...THIS!

YOU HAVE SAVED MY LIFE, MAN-CREATURE! IF I AM TO OWE IT TO YOU, I WOULD LIKE TO KNOW YOUR NAME.

I COME FROM A GALAXY MANY STARS FROM THIS PLACE -- OTHERS LIKE ME HAVE SEARCHED EONS FOR LIFE BEYOND OURS. THERE, I AM CALLED KEIFER...

I AM ZODI, CITIZEN AND SERVANT AS ALL OF US ARE, OF THE TEMPLE OF ONE. WHEN WE RETURN I WILL SPEAK FOR YOU

--AND WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO ME, ZODI, WHEN WE REACH YOUR TEMPLE?

THAT MUST BE DECIDED BY THE TEMPLE OF ONE! SHE KNOWS ALREADY OF YOUR POWERS

THEY HAVE NEVER SEEN A MAN BEFORE, ONE CALLED KEIFER. TO THEM, YOU ARE ALMOST UNKNOWN.

NO MEN--? BUT HOW THEN DO THEY EXIST?

COME CLOSER, KEIFER- I HAVE HEARD OF YOUR GREAT POWERS, AND HOW YOU DESTROYED THE DREADED KRAKATON!

IT WAS A GESTURE WHICH CAN ONLY MEAN YOU HAVE COME IN PEACE. SPEAK, KEIFER!

GREAT TEMPLE OF ONE, THERE IS MUCH YOUR PEOPLE AND MINE CAN DO FOR EACH OTHER. IN MY WORLD, HOPE OF FINDING OTHER LIFE FORMS HAS ALWAYS ENDED IN FAILURE.

ALL THE SECRETS - ALL THE PLEASURES OF MY WORLD CAN BE YOURS! SURELY, WE WILL BE ABLE TO HELP ONE ANOTHER!

YOU HAVE NOTICED, THEN, THERE ARE NO MEN HERE ON ULUPHON? ALMOST TWO HUNDRED YEARS AGO, ALL LIFE ON THE SURFACE OF THIS PLANET FACED EXTINCTION....

A PLAGUE, BROUGHT BACK TO ULUPHON FROM A DISTANT CONSTELLATION OUR GOVERNMENT EXPLORED, SUDDENLY DESTROYED WHOLE POPULATIONS...

...EVERYWHERE PEOPLE DIED WITHOUT WITHOUT CAUSE WE COULD CURE -

- WE SOON LEARNED THAT ONLY MEN WERE DYING. FOR SOME REASON, NO WOMEN FELT ANY EFFECTS OTHER THAN TEMPORARY BLINDNESS. AND WHILE THEY STUMBLED HELPLESSLY ABOUT IN A WORLD THAT WAS DOOMED -

- THE LAST MAN ON OUR PLANET SUCCUMBED TO THE FATAL DISEASE. THOSE OF US WHO SURVIVED, BURNED OUR CITIES AND FLED TO THE SAFETY OF OUR INNER WORLD...

ALTHOUGH WE WERE ABLE TO SYNTHETICALLY REPRODUCE OUR OFFSPRING, NONE OF THOSE CHILDREN WERE MALE. GRADUALLY, OUR SYSTEMS BECAME INFECTED WITH THE TOXIC INGREDIENTS NEEDED TO SPAWN.

NOT ONE MEMBER OF ULUPHON HAS CONCEIVED FOR ALMOST TWENTY YEARS. IN ANOTHER GENERATION, OUR WORLD WILL NO LONGER EXIST-UNLESS YOU AGREE TO HELP US.

SUDDENLY, THE GLOWING EDGES OF THE LIGHT AROUND HIM SOFTENED INTO A BLUR THAT WAS BLINKING HIS MIND SHUT. HIS HEAD FELT SQUEEZED OF BALANCE.

YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS! WHY-A THING LIKE THAT WOULD TAKE.... Y-YEARS!

I'D HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO SPEND THE REST OF MY LIFE HERE IN ULUPHON!

I DON'T RECALL MENTIONING THAT YOU HAD A CHOICE!

THE LAST REFLEX OF HIS BODY VANISHED INTO A WHIRLING EXPLOSION OF BLACK- JUST BEFORE HIS EYES SHUT THE PIERCING AGONY FROM HIS SENSES.

TAKE HIM TO THE TOWER! AND LEAVE HIS WEAPON HERE WITH ME...I WILL DECIDE LATER WHAT WILL BE DONE!

YES, O GREAT ONE! IT WILL BE!

AS TENS OF THOUGHTS FLASHED INTO HIS MIND, KEIFER'S EYES DRAINED THE ROOM IN QUICK SWALLOWS HE TRIED TO FOCUS. HIS WEAPON WAS GONE!

VERY INGENIOUS- NO DOORS, NO WINDOWS... NO ESCAPE!

IT LOOKS LIKE I'M HERE FOR KEEPS- WH..?

NOT IF YOU TRUST ME, KEIFER! HERE IS YOUR WEAPON- I TOOK IT FROM TEMPLE OF ONE!

IF I TAKE YOU BACK WHERE I FOUND YOU, CAN YOU FIND YOUR WAY BACK TO THE SHIP?

I'M SURE I CAN- BUT YOU'RE COMING BACK WITH ME-

CRAWLING TINGLES PINCHED KEIFER'S SPINE AS HE LEVELLED HIS DISINTEGRATOR AT THE GIRL GUARDS... HE'D NEVER KILLED A WOMAN BEFORE!

LOOK, KEIFER! WE ARE DISCOVERED! TEMPLE OF ONE!

NOW IF THEY COULD ONLY SLIP PAST THE TEMPLE OF ONE!

MAKE NO MISTAKE, TRAITORS,.. YOUR PUNISHMENT WILL BE SEVERE! NO ONE HAS EVER DISOBEYED ME. YOUR PET, ZODI- DO YOU THINK IT FAITHFUL?

SHOW THEM, KOG, WHO YOUR MAGTER IS!

EVEN YOU, KOG?!

-A SLAVE TO HER? YOU HAVE BETRAYED ME? DIE THEN, AS TEMPLE OF ONE COMMANDS!

YOU WANTED THE POWER OF MY WEAPON, GREAT TEMPLE OF ONE...NOW YOU CAN HAVE IT- ALL OF IT!

YOU DO NOT DARE TO DO THIS- I FORBID IT!!

ULUPHON WAS IN ITS THROES OF FINAL AGONY!

ZODI, LOOK!

THE SHIP!

THE GROUND! IT'S BEGINNING TO SHAKE! HURRY, ZODI- WE MUST GET BACK TO THE SHIP BEFORE THIS PLACE RIPS APART! THIS WAY- QUICK!

WE MADE IT!

THOUSANDS DESTROYED... AT LEAST I MANAGED TO SAVE YOU. FUNNY, I CAN'T THINK OF SHARING YOU WITH ANYONE!

I FEEL THE SAME WAY ABOUT YOU, KEIFER. PROMISE ME YOU'LL ALWAYS BE MINE, KEIFER! PROMISE!

IT'S NOT POSSIBLE, ZODI - MY SUPERIORS WOULD NEVER PERMIT IT!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

...ON MY WORLD - THERE ARE NO WOMEN !!!

HOW LUCKY CAN ONE GIRL GET? JUST THINK OF ALL THE DATE MATES SHE'LL MEET ONCE MR KEIFER INTRODUCES HER TO ...THE BOYS! HO-BOY! MAYBE IF I'M NO GOOD SHE'LL LEND ME THE LEFTOVERS?

# VAMPI'S FEARY TALES

# LILITH

ALL KNOW THE STORY OF ADAM AND EVE BUT FEW ARE AWARE THAT EVE WAS THE SECOND WOMAN ON EARTH. THE FIRST WAS THE TEMPTUOUS BEAUTY CALLED . . .

J. JONES

DESPITE HER PHYSICAL PERFECTION LILITH SOON PROVED HERSELF TO BE A VAIN AND ARROGANT WOMAN WITH NO LOVE FOR HER COMPANION ADAM.

SHE WAS CAST OUT OF EDEN AND EXILED TO THE NIGHT.

HER SAVAGE EXISTENCE CAUSED HER TO BECOME A PROWLER OF DARKNESS, LIVING OFF THE BLOOD OF INFANTS AND SMALL ANIMALS.

WHEN SHE SAW THAT EVE HAD REPLACED HER, SHE SWORE VENGENCE ON ALL OF MANKIND.

IT IS SHE WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR NIGHTMARES AND FOR THE ABDUCTIONS OF INNOCENTS WHO STAY IN THE STREETS AFTER SUNDOWN.

LILITH — THE FIRST VAMPIRE!

I HAD TO REALLY **DIG** IN THE FAMILY ALBUM TO **UNCOVER** THAT STORY ABOUT GREAT-GREAT-GREAT-GREAT-GRANDMA. SHE CERTAINLY KNEW HOW TO GET THE **BITE** ON PEOPLE.

THE MOST FANTASTIC AND PRETTIEST HOBBY KIT EVER CREATED!

# HERE SHE IS—AT LAST!!!

## OUR OWN VAMPIRELLA PLASTIC HOBBY KIT

FEATURING 16 SNAP-TOGETHER PLASTIC PARTS • 2 PAIRS OF MOVABLE ARMS • 2 PAIRS OF LEGS • SEPARATE BAT • STURDY BASE • PRODUCED BY AURORA • STRAIGHT OUT OF THE PAGES OF VAMPIRELLA MAGAZINE!!

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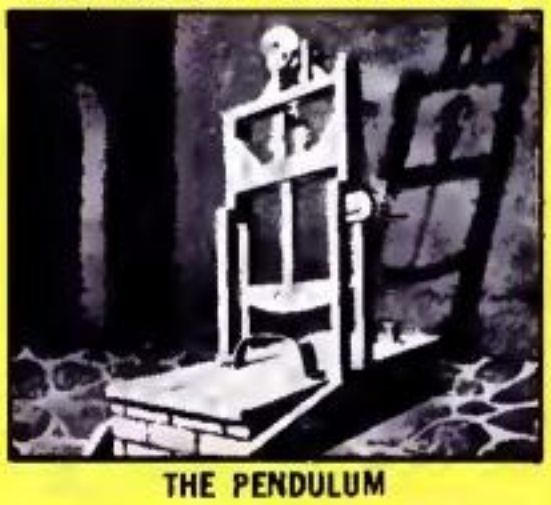
NEW MONSTER SCENE & FIGURE KITS—TO GO WITH THE VAMPIRELLA KIT! NO CEMENT REQUIRED. SIMPLE SNAP-TOGETHER ASSEMBLY. NOW YOU CAN CREATE YOUR OWN CUSTOMIZED MONSTER SETS!!



THE PENDULUM

GRUESOME GDDDIES

THE PAIN PARLDR

THE HANGING CAGE

## MAIL COUPON TODAY!!

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Please rush me the following kits, which I've checked below:

- ☐ Vampirella ($1.30)
- ☐ Dr. Deadly ($1.30)
- ☐ The Victim ($1.30)
- ☐ Frankenstein ($1.30)
- ☐ The Pendulum ($2.00)
- ☐ Pain Parlor ($2.00)
- ☐ Gruesome Goodies ($2.00)
- ☐ Hanging Cage ($2.00)

ADD 50¢ POSTAGE & HANDLING FOR EACH ITEM CHECKED

I enclose a total of $ for the above order. (Don't forget 50¢ postage & handling charge for each kit.)

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

CITY .....

STATE ..... ZIP .....

THE VICTIM

FRANKENSTEIN

DR. DEADLY

WWW.TECHNOGRAMMATON.ORG GLOBAL COMICS MODERATOR

Continuity Publishing

NEXT...

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